Remarks

The Office Action of August 28, 2003, has been carefully considered. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. (5,519,472) in view of Yamashita (4,597,661) and Kudo et al. Claim 3 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. in view of Yamashita and Kudo et al., and in further view of Hirata et al. (5,532,804). Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. in view of Yamashita, and Kudo et al. and Hirata et al., and further in view of Tajima et al. (4,936,249). Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. in view of Yamashita and Kudo et al., and further in view of Kanno et al. Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ojima et al. in view of Yamashita and Kudo et al.

Ojima et al. teaches a developing apparatus includes a developer carrying member for carrying developer, a developing blade press-contacted to the developer carrying member to regulate a layer of developer formed on the developer carrying member, where the blade comprises an electrically conductive layer, and a high resistance layer located at the developer carrying member side of the conductive layer, and an electric field generating device for forming an oscillating electric field between the developer carrying member and the conductive layer, wherein a maximum intensity of the electric field is not less than 10^6 V/m. Ojima et al. does not teach a trim bar or a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll, each of said plurality of trim bars including a vibrating member, for disrupting a developer bed and reducing developer bed

height of said developer material on said donor member to a predefined developer bed height within a development nip.

Yamashita teaches a magnet roll assembly for use in an apparatus developing an electrostatic latent image has a permanent magnet providing a plurality of circumferentially spaced magnetic poles and a non-magnetic sleeve surrounding the permanent magnet member, the non-magnetic sleeve having a roughened surface region terminating at both ends inward relative to both ends of the permanent magnet member, a distance which can be proportional to the pitch of the magnetic poles at the sleeve surface whereby a magnetic developer layer of substantially uniform height is formed along the length of the sleeve surface. The surface roughness of the roughned (sic) surface region of the sleeve lies preferably within the range of from 0.5 μm to 3 μm (Rz). The magnet roll assembly is applicable to both magnetic brush-type and jumping-type developing apparatuses. Yamashita does not teach a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll, each of said plurality of trim bars including a vibrating member, for disrupting a developer bed and reducing developer bed height of said developer material on said donor member to a predefined developer bed height within a development nip.

Kudo et al. teaches an electrostatic apparatus using contact development; a toner layer carried by a developing roller for developing a latent image, a doctor blade applied with a voltage of the same polarity as that of the toner is used for partly scraping the toner layer. The toner scraped off is sucked by a suction means. An additional doctor blade is preferably used together with the main doctor blade to make rough and fine control of the thickness of the toner layer. Kudo et al. does not teach a donor roll which is spaced from the imaging member; a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor

roll, each of said plurality of trim bars including a vibrating member, for disrupting a developer bed and reducing developer bed height of said developer material on said donor member to a predefined developer bed height within a development nip.

Now considering a combination of Ojima et al., Yamashita and Kudo et al., even if combinable. The combination does not suggest or teach a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Ojima et al., Yamashia, Kudo et al., singly, or in combination, do not teach or suggest the present invention.

Hirata et al. teaches a developing device, which has a developer carrying member forming a magnetic brush of a two-component developer and is capable of carrying out a development while it is not in contact with an electrostatic latent image retaining member, is improved so as to reproduce an image at a sufficient image density. Hirata et al. does not teach a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll, each of said plurality of trim bars.

Tajima et al. teaches a developing apparatus including a cylindrical member having an outer diameter of 5-25 mm to carry a developer. In the cylindrical member, there is disposed a stationary magnet having only two magnetic poles adjacent an outer periphery thereof. An elastic member is contacted to said cylindrical member to regulate the thickness of the developer layer. Tajima et al. does not teach a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll, each of said plurality of trim bars.

Kanno et al. teaches a developing device for developing an electrostatic latent image includes a tank for containing therein a quantity of developer, a developing sleeve driven to rotate in a predetermined direction

and having an outer peripheral surface which defines a path for transporting the developer, a magnet roll disposed inside of the developing sleeve for keeping the developer attracted to the peripheral surface of the sleeve, and a pressure plate pressed against the sleeve to form a thin film of developer on the peripheral surface of the sleeve before being applied to the latent image. Kanno et al. does not teach a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll, each of said plurality of trim bars.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Ojima et al. Yamashia, Hirata et al., Tajima et al., and Kanno et al., singly, or in combination, do not teach or suggest a plurality of trim bars positioned about a donor roll at a plurality of predefined positions and spacing around said donor roll.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, reconsideration of this application and allowance thereof are earnestly solicited.

No additional fee is believed to be required for this amendment. However, the undersigned Xerox Corporation attorney (or agent) hereby authorizes the charging of any necessary fees, other than the issue fee, to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025. This also constitutes a request for any needed extension of time and authorization to charge all fees therefor to Xerox Corporation Deposit Account No. 24-0025.

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In the event the Examiner considers personal contact advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is hereby directed to call applicant's attorney, Lloyd F. Bean, II, at Telephone Number (585)423-4520, Rochester, New York.

Respectfully submitted,

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